

(Decree.) Napoleon, Emperor of the French, King of Italy, Protector of the Confederation of the Rhine, etc.

Whereas Charlemagne, Emperor of the French, our illustrious predecessor, when donating various counties to the bishops of Rome, granted them by way of fiefs and for the greater benefit of his states; and whereas Rome did not cease, by the said donations, from being a part of his Empire; and whereas nothing that we have put forward for the purpose of conciliating the safety of our armies, the tranquillity and prosperity of our people, the dignity and integrity of our Empire with the temporal claims of the Popes, has been of any effect; we hereby decree:

The States of the Pope are annexed to the French Empire.

17th. The immense quantity of material necessary for throwing a bridge over the Danube is already assembled. I hope to cross on the 18th and 19th, and to disperse the armies between the Danube and Moravia.

19th, Ebersdorf:

The Emperor hopes the bridge will be ready to-morrow forenoon, and that the whole army will reach the left bank in the course of the day.

22d, bivouac, island of Lobau:

The nearest villages are Aspern, Essling, and Enzers-dorf. To cross a river like the Danube in the presence of an enemy knowing the ground thoroughly, and having the sympathies of the inhabitants, is one of the most difficult military operations conceivable.

It was all over with the Austrian army when at 7 A. M. a staff officer reached the Emperor and informed him that, owing to a sudden flood of the Danube which had carried